

An aerial photograph of the Oroville Dam and its reservoir. The dam is a large concrete structure spanning a wide river. The reservoir is a large body of blue water. The surrounding landscape is a mix of dry, brownish-yellow hills and green, forested areas. A winding road is visible on the left side of the image. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

Oroville FERC Relicensing (Project No. 2100)

Environmental Work Group

July 28, 2004 Meeting

SP-F10 Task 1A and 1B

Request for Scope Change

Study Plan Titles

- ◆ **F10 Task 1A – Evaluate the influence of Oroville Facilities operations on Feather River attraction flows and their effects on salmonids in the Feather River below the Fish Barrier Dam**
- ◆ **F10 Task 1B – Evaluate the influence of Oroville Facilities operations on attraction water temperatures and their effects on salmonids in the Feather River below the Fish Barrier Dam**

Study Plan Objectives

- ◆ **Determine if Oroville operations contribute to salmonid straying rates in the Feather River to or from the Sacramento or Yuba Rivers based on project flows or water temperatures**

Study Plan Data Requirements

- ◆ **F10 1A – Flows by month by tributary**
- ◆ **F10 1A – Water temperatures by month by tributary**
- ◆ **F10 1A and 1B – Carcass survey tag recoveries by month by tributary from SP-F9**

Study Plan Deliverables

- ◆ **F10 1A – Flow indices by month by tributary**
- ◆ **F10 1A – Water temperature indices by month by tributary**
- ◆ **F10 1A and 1B – Straying indices by month by tributary from SP-F9**
- ◆ **F10 1A and 1B – Correlations of monthly flow and water temperature indices to monthly straying indices by month**

Study Plan Data Limitations

- ◆ **F10 1A – Daily flow data available for a number of years – some problems with location of gauges.**
- ◆ **F10 1B – Water temperature data above and below tributary confluences (and in the other tributary) are only available since April 2002 and that record is incomplete.**
- ◆ **F10 1A and 1B – Reliable carcass survey data is only available since 2002 for the Yuba River and CWT data is grouped on an annual basis. Prior year CWT recovery efforts were inadequate to provide statistically reliable data.**

Conclusions

- ◆ **A regression of monthly flows or water temperatures against an annualized straying indices is meaningless and provides no value or insight into the relationship of Oroville project operations to the character or rate of fish straying**
- ◆ **No other “salvage” information products were identified that have the potential to provide value or insights into the project**

Recommendations

- ◆ **Since no value to implementing any portion of the studies can be identified, it is recommended to drop these studies from the scope of work of the relicensing project**